aggregate limit will be arrived farmer-wise.

Fall in Prices of F.C.V. Tobacco

1730. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any complaints against Tobacco Board for the fall in prices of F.C.V. tobacco during this season; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps are being taken to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of FCV tobacco in A.P. is estimated to be around 86 M.Kgs. against the target of 75 M.Kgs. According to the Tobacco Board the average price for FCV tobacco at the auctions in A.P. as on 11-5-90 was Rs. 15.05 per kg. The Tobacco Board has clarified that the prices at the auctions last year were initially high but went down subsequently and the average price for the entire season was 16.59 per kg. The USSR finned up its orders only in April, 1990 and prices have picked up marginally thereafter. The Commerce Ministry held a meeting with the tobacco trade on 26th April, 1990 in a bid to secure better prices to the fanners. The STC has since moved into the market w.e.f. 2.5.90 and the tobacco prices have shown improvement.

Committee on Electoral Reforms

1731. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI ALIA.

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Electoral Reforms has submitted its recommendations; if so, what are its main recommendations;

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether the Election Commission proposes to issue identity cards to voters, if so, the main features of the scheme and total cost likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The main recommendations of the Committee are given in the enclosed statement, (see below)

(b) The recommendations are under active consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir, in a phased manner. The identity card may be laminated and will contain the photograph, name and other particulars of the holder. The card will help in establishing the identity of its holder for various purposes including identification as a voter and will help in preventing impersonation. The card would also be used for various other purposes like rationing, health benefits etc. The total expenditure on the scheme as estimated by the Election Commission is likely to be about Rs. 175 crores.

Statement

Main Recommendations of the Committee on Electoral Reforms

1. The Election Commission to be a three member body. The appointment of Chief Election Commissioner to be in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition. The CEC to be consulted for appointment of other Members.

2. A fresh delimitation on the basis of ,1981 census. Rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes.

3. Introduction of multi-purpose photo identity cards.